In the Supreme Court of Iowa

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Request for Public Comment
Regarding Proposed Permanent
Court Rules for Court Ordered
Installment Payment Plans and
Other Collection Activities of
the Iowa Courts

Order

Effective July 1, 2010, the Iowa Legislature made broad changes to state procedures for collecting debt obligations, including court fines and fees. By Supervisory Order dated July 2, 2010, the supreme court issued interim procedures governing the collection of court fines and fees. Upon recommendation from the Judicial Council, the court appointed a statewide advisory committee to study the courts' collections processes and make recommendations for improvements.

In October 2011, the Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Fine Collection Procedures, Practices, and Rules submitted an amended report to the court that included recommendations for permanent rules for court-ordered installment pay plans and other collections activities of the Iowa courts. Those recommendations have recently been updated to account for new legislation taking effect July 1, 2012 (SF 2231 (2012)). The recommendations include a requirement for a minimum installment payment amount of \$50 per month, consistent with the interim practice that has been in place since 2010.

Prior to taking further action on the recommendations, the supreme court seeks public comment on the proposed permanent court rules for court ordered installment payment plans and other collection activities of the Iowa courts. Copies of the proposed rules, as well as the October 2011 amended

report from the Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Fine Collection Procedures, Practices, and Rules, can be found at www.iowacourts.gov/Supreme_Court/Orders/. In addition, copies of the proposed rules and the report are available at the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court.

Any interested organization, agency, or person may submit written comments. Comments about a proposed rule must refer to the specific rule number (for example, Rule 26.6(2)) and the specific numbered line or lines to which the comments are directed. Comments sent by email must be emailed to rules.comments@iowacourts.gov, must state "Court Collection Activities" in the subject line of the e-mail, and must be sent as an attachment to the e-mail in Microsoft Word format. Instead of submission by email, comments may be delivered in person or mailed to the Clerk of the Supreme Court, 1111 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319.

Any comments received may be posted on the Iowa Judicial Branch website.

The deadline for submitting comments is 4:30 p.m. on December 22, 2012.

The July 2, 2010, interim procedures governing the collection of court fines and fees remain in effect until further notice from the court.

Dated this 25 day of October, 2012.

The Supreme Court of Iowa

Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice